

## Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JULY 22 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. HEDRICK SMITH OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, SPEAKING AT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, TOLD SOVIET UNION THAT U.S. WAS PREPARED TO LIMIT ITS STRATEGIC WEAPONS PROGRAMS, SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT OF CRUISE MISSILES, IF MOSCOW WOULD AGREE TO CONTROLS ON ITS HEAVY INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILES. "HIS OFFER, COUCHED IN DELIBERATELY VAGUE LANGUAGE AND PRESENTED IN MAJOR ADDRESS ON SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, REFLECTS POSITION ALREADY TAKEN BY AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS AND BROKE NO NEW GROUND, BUT IT SOUGHT TO EMPHASIZE U.S. DESIRE TO CONTROL ARMS RACE," SMITH POINTED OUT.

2. NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED REUTER DISPATCH FROM VIENNA REPORTING THAT WARSAW PACT HAD ACCUSED NATO OF PRYING INTO  
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SECRETS BY SEEKING TO PINPOINT EXACT SIZE OF MILITARY UNITS BASED IN CENTRAL EUROPE. SOVIET-BLOCK DELEGATIONS LEVELED CHARGE AS 19-NATION EAST-WEST CONFERENCE ON TROOP REDUCTIONS BROKE UP FOR SUMMER, WITH LONG DISPUTE OVER MANPOWER STATISTICS STILL UNRESOLVED, DISPATCH SAID. SEVEN-NATION WARSAW PACT ALSO CRITICIZED U.S. PLANS TO DEPLOY CRUISE MISSILE AND TO DEVELOP NEUTRON BOMB. DISPATCH SAID "TROOP

REDUCTION CONFERENCE, WHICH HAS MADE NO BASIC PROGRESS IN NEARLY FOUR YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS, RECESSED FOR TWO MONTHS, WITH BOTH SIDES ACCUSING OTHER OF HOLDING UP PROGRESS."

3. WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT CIA DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER ENDED SEVERAL DAYS OF SPECULATION BY TELLING JOINT HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT HE STANDS BY HIS RECENT STATEMENT THAT PROPOSED SALE OF AWACS TO IRAN COULD COST THIS COUNTRY VITAL EDGE IN ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY. POST SAID ALTHOUGH TURNER HAD NOT TAKEN PUBLIC STAND FAVORING OR OPPOSING SALE, HE IS ONLY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL WHO HAD PUBLICLY RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT IT.

4. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK IN JULY 21 COLUMN IN WASHINGTON POST SAID "DEFENSE EXPERT'S REPORT TO CONGRESS ON RELATIVE U.S. AND SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTHS, CONTRADICTING CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ROSY VIEW, HAS RESULTED IN SUPPRESSION OF REPORT AND THREATS THAT EXPERT MAY LOSE HIS JOB." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID "ALARMING PICTURE WAS PAINTED BY JOHN M. COLLINS, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RESEARCH, IN HIS REPORT PREPARED FOR SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE LAST MARCH: RELATIVE U.S. DECLINE, BOTH QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE, RISING VULNERABILITY IN WESTERN EUROPE; POSSIBLE EROSION OF NUCLEAR DETERRENT. COMMITTEE'S STAFF REJECTED REPORT, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND COLLINS FACES DISCIPLINARY ACTION. IT IS ALLEGED THIS WAS PROMPTED BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION, BUT THAT HAS NOT BEEN PROVED AND IS DENIED. NEVERTHELESS, IT FITS CARTER ADMINISTRATION TENDENCY, PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY US, TO SMOTHER MATERIAL THAT WOULD ARGUE FOR HIGHER DEFENSE SPENDING. WITH HOLD ON PENTAGON SPENDING ESSENTIAL FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S BALANCED BUDGET, TENDENCY IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE."

5. NEW REPUBLIC IN JULY 23 ISSUE SAID PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SHOWN "STEADY GOOD JUDGMENT" IN MILITARY PROCUREMENT POLICY. "HIS DECISIONS NOT TO DEPLOY B-ONE BOMBER, TO SPEED DEPLOYMENT OF AIR-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES AND TO GO AHEAD WITH INITIAL PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON BOMBS ALL SHOW THAT CARTER HAS HIS STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC PRIORITIES IN ORDER....AFTER WAYWARD START INTO ETHICS OF KILLING PEOPLE AND SPARING THEIR REAL ESTATE, NEUTRON BOMB DEBATE FINALLY CENTERED ON RIGHT ISSUE: SHOULD WE BUILD SMALL 'CLEAN' NUCLEAR WEAPON WITH KILL RADIUS OF 200 YARDS, THAT WE MIGHT USE IF SOVIETS INVADE WESTERN EUROPE, IN HOPES THAT SOVIETS WILL BE DETERRED FROM ATTACKING AT ALL? OR, SHOULD WE STICK WITH MORE DESTRUCTIVE TACTICAL NUKES, IN

HOPES THAT, IF WAR STARTS, EACH SIDE REFRAIN FROM EMPLOYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS? CARTER DECIDED, TENTATIVELY ANYWAY, THAT WEAPON THAT DETERS WAR AND LIMITS DESTRUCTION IS BETTER THAN ONE WHICH DETERS ONLY ITS USE. WE CONCUR."

6. GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR VLADIMIR PETROV IN LETTER TO WASHINGTON POST, URGED "SOME SANITY, PLEASE, ON TALK ABOUT SOVIETS." PETROV NOTED THAT FOR THREE SUCCESSIVE SUNDAYS POST PUBLISHED MAJOR ARTICLES IN OUTLOOK SECTION THAT "ARE INTERRELATED AND AT SAME TIME CONFUSING TO YOUR DEVOTED READERS." COMMENTING ON RICHARD PERLE'S ARTICLE, PETROV SAID "PERLE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT SOVIETS BUT IS EXPERT ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS." SECOND ARTICLE FEATURED "ANOTHER TUTOR OF SENATOR JACKSON, UNCLASSIFIED

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PROF. RICHARD PIPES, WHOSE NORMAL SPECIALIZATION IS HISTORY OF PRE-REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA BUT WHO, IN HIS SPARE TIMES, READS SOVIET DEFENSE MANUALS ON BASIS OF WHICH HE CLAIMS THAT 'RUSSIANS' ARE AIMING AT STRIKING U.S. AND ACHIEVING 'NUCLEAR VICTORY.' PIPES ADMITTEDLY KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS OR, FOR THAT MATTER, ABOUT SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS, BUT IS, PRESUMABLY, AUTHORITY ON PERFIDIOUS 'RUSSIAN MIND.'" THIRD ARTICLE FEATURED BORIS RABBOT. "HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT WEAPONS SYSTEMS OR SEN. JACKSON'S DEFENSE POLITICS BUT CLAIMS FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF SOVIET STRATEGY, WHICH, HE ASSERTS, IS STRICTLY DEFENSIVE 'AND INCLUDES NO PLANS FOR OFFENSIVE ATTACK AGAINST U.S.' IF ONLY BECAUSE OF MOSCOW'S INABILITY 'TO KEEP UP TECHNOLOGICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY WITH CAPITALIST WORLD.' RABBOT'S CONCLUSIONS, ALTHOUGH SHARED BY NUMBER OF SOVIETOLOGISTS, CLASH SO DIRECTLY WITH THOSE OF PERLE AND PIPES THAT ROBERT G. KAISER, IN ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE, CASTS DOUBT ON HIS CREDIBILITY, SUGGESTING THAT 'SOVIETS HAVE SENT HIM HERE AS SOME KIND OF DISINFORMATION AGENT' DESPITE FACT THAT 'NUMEROUS U.S. OFFICIALS' ARE CONVINCED 'THAT HE IS GENUINE ARTICLE, NOT AN AGENT.'" PETROV CONCLUDED "ONE WONDERS WHETHER FREE SOCIETY IS CAPABLE OF RESTORING SANITY TO DISCUSSIONS OF SUCH MATTERS, RESTRICTING THEM TO THOSE WHO POSSESS BOTH COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY, OR ARE WE DOOMED TO LISTEN TO EVERYONE WHO HAPPENS TO HAVE OPINION -- AND UNLIMITED ACCESS TO NEWS MEDIA?" VANCE

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